

Memorandum

To : The Conservancy
The Advisory Committee

Date: October 22, 2007

From :  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Director

Subject: **Agenda Item 12: Consideration of resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the acquisition of approximately 850 acres (APNs 4457-013-013, 015, 029, 033, 036, 037, 038, 039, 040, 043, 044, 052, 053, 060, 061; 4457-005-001, 002, 003, 005, 010, 011, 016; 4457-006-005, 006, 019, 020, 021, and 4461-004-007) in Corral Canyon, Malibu.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Conservancy adopt the attached resolution authorizing a grant of Proposition 84 funds in the amount of \$4,015,000 to the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for the acquisition of approximately 850 acres (APNs 4457-013-013, 015, 029, 033, 036, 037, 038, 039, 040, 043, 044, 052, 053, 060, 061; 4457-005-001, 002, 003, 005, 010, 011, 016; 4457-006-005, 006, 019, 020, 021, and 4461-004-007) in Corral Canyon, Malibu.

Legislative Authority: Section 33204.2(a) and 33204.27(a) of the Public Resources Code.

Background: The Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) has submitted the attached application to acquire approximately 850 acres located in Corral Canyon in the City of Malibu. The subject property contains important coastal habitat, and acquisition will facilitate development of the Coastal Slope Trail, as well as implementation of the Malibu Access Local Coastal Plan amendment pending before the City of Malibu.

The subject property consists of twenty-eight parcels. The northern section contains 199 acres, the lower portion is 650 acres. The owner has both Los Angeles County and California Coastal Commission approvals on at least three parcels within both the northern and southern sections of the property.

The property owner is a willing seller, and the Trust for Public Land has already negotiated a purchase agreement. The appraisal has been approved by DGS. Additional funds for the acquisition will be contributed by the State Coastal Conservancy, the Wildlife Conservation Board, California State Parks, the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Commission, and the Los Angeles County Regional Park and Open Space District. The MRCA requests that the term of agreement begin October 22, 2007 and end no earlier than December 31, 2008.

Corral Canyon is the last remaining coastal canyon in the Los Angeles County portion of the Santa Monica Mountains with a contiguous band of natural land from the ocean to the crest

of the range. This unique canyon encompasses Malibu Creek State Park in its headwaters and Dan Blocker State Beach at the mouth of Corral Creek. The upper watershed supports dense chaparral vegetation that transitions into a less woody coastal sage scrub closer to the ocean. A mixed riparian woodland with white alders, California sycamores, willows, and coastal live oak thrive around Corral Creek. Near Pacific Coast Highway, the creek broadens into a gravelly flood plain with an open scattered mix of willow, mulefat and other riparian species that adapt well to flooding. The last hundred feet of the creek upstream from the Pacific Coast Highway bridge is subjected to tidal influence. The result is a small salt marsh characterized by low growing salt tolerant plants. Many sections of Corral Creek retain year-round surface water. A broad coastal bench located just east of the Corral Canyon trailhead supports some of the best remaining coastal bluff native grasslands in the Santa Monica Mountains.